

"All the natural
news worth knowing"

North Hartland Lake Edition

Weather: Hopefully warm
and sunny all summer

THE NORTH HARTLAND LAKE HERALD

VOL I.....No. 1

Copyright 2004 The North Hartland Lake Herald

SUMMER 2004

NO CENTS

TRUE NAME OF LAKE REVEALED!

Animals worry about change of address forms

By B. HERON

Residents of NHL claimed to be taken aback by the news that their home had a name most knew nothing about. "George Perkins Marsh Conservation Lake?" a startled frog said. "I never knew that was its name! I always called it the North Hartland Dam! Who the Sam Hill is this George guy, and how did he get a lake named for him?"

Continued on page 2



A North Hartland Lake resident learning he is actually a George Perkins Marsh Conservation Lake one. This news was shocking to some.

A WHALE'S TALE

Lessons learned from near tragedy

By R. LOBSTER

Inky doesn't deny it for a second- she's a very lucky animal. She spoke with a *Herald* reporter to promote the coloring book, "The True Story of Inky the Whale". "I wish it wasn't a true story", sighed the sea-going celebrity, when reached at her home off the Florida coast. Inky, a young pygmy sperm whale, was found beached on the New Jersey shore in 1993. Rushed to the National Aquarium in Baltimore by

Continued on page 2



Inky the Whale, happy
and healthy today.

LAKE NAME

Continued from page 1

NHL rangers explained that George Perkins Marsh was a famous 19th century lawyer, businessman, diplomat and environmentalist who wrote a book called Man and Nature. Sadly, the book, which warns people that they must take care of the environment in order to protect themselves, did not get much attention for many years. But, by the end of the 1960's, when NHL was officially made a recreation area, people WERE caring more about the environment. So, because George Perkins Marsh was from Vermont, and such a lover of nature, the lake was named for him. BUT, because the dam at the lake was always known as the North Hartland Dam, the lake is now known by that name as well. "Just because we call it NHL, not GPM doesn't mean we've forgotten what the lake's first name should mean to visitors", said a park ranger. "We should always respect the land here, and everywhere- in the spirit of George Perkins Marsh."



MAN AND NATURE- "This is a good book, but it should have been called "Nature and Man", said this NHL/GPMCL resident.

WHALE

Continued from Page 1

truck, Inky remembers, "I had to be lifted off the beach by a Coast Guard helicopter before I could be put in the truck. I know that sounds like fun, but I can't remember any of it. I wasn't just sick- I was *dying*." Doctors at the aquarium soon discovered the whale's problem-she had eaten trash she had found in the water. Part of a helium party balloon and some plastic trash bags were found in her stomach, blocking it so that she could not eat. "I don't like to eat plastic", Inky explained. "But when you're underwater, pieces of plastic look like my favorite food-squid. I guess I should have known something was wrong when one of the 'squid' had 'Happy Birthday' on it, but I'm a whale! I don't read!" Doctors took the trash from Inky's stomach, and she soon made a full recovery, and was returned to the wild. "Kids should ask a NHL ranger for a copy of my book, and learn about the whole story." She adds that while no whales live at NHL, many other animals do, and trash in the water could be eaten by them and make them very ill as well. "Please, please", begs Inky, "don't leave trash on the beach or release balloons outside. Help save an animal's life!"



YUCK! - Party balloons and trash are a bad idea in the out of doors. Please don't release helium balloons outside, and take your trash home with you.

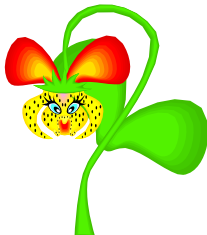
FLOWER FRENZY!

Plants fear being uprooted at North Hartland Lake

By R. TRILLIUM

Workers and residents of North Hartland Lake usually look forward to the opening of the lake's recreation area. But there is one group here that says summer's visitors can make them nervous. "They're very nice people- I know they don't do it on purpose" said an ox-eye daisy when questioned. "I mean, you can tell they love flowers, that's why they pick us, and sometimes even pull us up by the roots to take to their homes to plant. They just don't know the problems doing this causes."

Yes, April showers bring beautiful May flowers, but at North Hartland Lake, flowers should only be looked at, not picked. "If everyone who came to NHL picked a flower", a park ranger points out, "there would be none left. Also, even if you want a flower that there seems to be a lot of, you could disturb and destroy a rare flower growing nearby. As we like to say here, "Take only pictures from North Hartland Lake."



LOVE ME AND LEAVE ME ALONE- says this beautiful flower, wanting to remind everyone that flower and plant picking isn't permitted in the park.

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Help bluebirds by giving them a home

By E.O. WOODS

Visitors to North Hartland Lake often ask about the birdhouses they see in fields here. Who are they for, and why are they facing the woods? To find out, this reporter asked NHL's know-it-all, Nature Pal, for the answers. "That's easy", replied Nature Pal. "The houses are for Eastern Bluebirds to build nests in. They are small, shy birds that look for food out in the open, but like to hide in the woods if they are afraid, so that's why the rangers place the houses like that." The Pal seemed to know a lot about this, so the reporter's next question was, are these birds really blue? "Well, sure, sometimes they get sad, but- oh, wait, you mean the color!" The Pal exclaimed. "The male bluebird is indeed a very pretty blue on his upper side, and rust-red and white on his lower side. The female bluebird is mostly gray with a little pale blue on top, and pale orange and white below. Mommy birds are usually never as pretty as the daddies- they don't want attract anyone to their nests when they're laying on eggs!" And why did they need humans to build them homes? the reporter wondered.

Continued on Page Four



MOVING ON IN- This male bluebird is thinking about making North Hartland Lake his new address, if the neighbors are quiet.

HOME

Continued from Page 3

Nature Pal explained that Eastern Bluebirds liked to make nests in holes in old trees or in fence posts. “But humans,” The Pal explained, “have taken many of these things down. Also, the bluebird is shy, so tougher birds and squirrels often take over the ones that are left. Helping by putting up houses helps keep bluebirds in Vermont!” Could a kid make a bluebird house, asked the reporter. “Sure!” said the Pal. “Get an adult to help you, and then get some UNTREATED wood, because wood with chemicals in it can be bad for birds. There are lots of places where you can find designs for bluebird houses. One good book where you can find designs for not just bluebird houses, but other kinds of houses is Backyard Bird-Watching For Kids by George H. Harrison. (ISBN- 1-57223-089-4). One to thing to remember when you’re building a house is that you DO NOT want to paint designs on a house or decorate it. If it’s too fancy looking, the birds won’t move in! Remember, it’s supposed to look like an old tree. Do old trees have chimneys on them?!” The reporter thanked Nature Pal for all the good advice, and had one last question- Did the bluebird fly over the white cliffs of Dover? “You’re getting silly now,” said Nature Pal, returning to the woods to await the next non-silly nature question.



“FEED US, WE’RE HUNGRY!” CRY ANIMALS

Park Rangers Disagree

BY C. MUNK

Animals gathered at North Hartland Lake today to complain that the humans using their homes weren’t sharing their food with them. “They used to have trash cans in the park and it was great”, said a raccoon who refused to give his name. “When the park closed and people went home, my family and I would come and have a feast! Buns, cupcake wrappers, potato chips, it was great. Then, because the rangers are a little chubby, sometimes we’d throw the can lids around and tip the cans over so’d they get some exercise. It was a win-win situation”. However, park rangers disagree. “Human food is NOT good for wild animals!” said a ranger, whose name was She Who Must Be Obeyed. “Not only can it make them sick, they lose their fear of humans. This DOES NOT mean that they’re tame. This means that the animal will do whatever it has to in order to get the food, including biting and attacking humans! So when visiting the park we ask that people keep their food in closed containers, don’t throw left over food into the woods, and don’t try to get the animals to come to you for food. There is plenty of natural food in the park for animals. Yes, they have to work a little harder to get it, but this is healthier for both them and humans.”



“WHAT? THEY’RE LOW-CARB!” says this in denial North Hartland Lake resident. Sorry, fella. Human food IS bad for wild animals.

